

Slow Italian, Fast Learning

Ep.441: The Austrian museum that's alive with "*The Sound of Music*"

Italian	English
"Gocce di pioggia sulle rose e i baffi dei gatti...". Se quella celebre canzone elencava le cose preferite di Julie Andrews nel film <i>Tutti insieme appassionatamente</i>, il film stesso non era certo tra le preferenze degli abitanti di Salisburgo, in Austria. Per molti anni fu accolto con indifferenza e liquidato come kitsch, una parola tedesca usata per definire qualcosa di pacchiano, dozzinale o di cattivo gusto. Ma tutto questo è cambiato con l'apertura di un nuovo museo dedicato al film, uscito al cinema 61 anni fa, che racconta la storia della famiglia di cantanti von Trapp e della sua fuga dall'Austria dopo l'annessione nazista. Questa è Elisabeth von Trapp, nipote di Georg e Agathe von Trapp, la cui storia familiare ha ispirato il musical di Rodgers e Hammerstein e il successivo successo hollywoodiano. Ancora oggi accompagna i visitatori in tour guidati nei luoghi di Salisburgo legati al film. Il museo è ospitato nel Palazzo di Hellbrunn, una residenza del XVII secolo dove furono girate molte delle scene più celebri della pellicola. I visitatori possono ammirare quasi 450 oggetti tra costumi e oggetti di scena originali, manifesti cinematografici e registrazioni musicali. Il museo, però, distingue con attenzione la vera storia della famiglia von Trapp dalla versione raccontata nel musical.	"Raindrops on roses... and whiskers on kittens"... while that song may have listed Julie Andrews' favourite things in the movie "<i>The Sound of Music</i>", the movie itself was definitely NOT one of the favourite things of the citizens of Salzburg in Austria, who viewed it with indifference, dismissing it as 'kitsch' - a German word meaning low quality, tacky or in bad taste. But that's all changed with the opening of a new museum celebrating the 61-year-old movie, which told the story of the Von Trapp family singers and their escape from the Nazi invasion of Austria. That's Elisabeth von Trapp, granddaughter of Georg and Agatha Von Trapp, whose family story inspired the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical and Hollywood blockbuster. She continues to give guided tours of movie sites in Salzburg today. The museum is housed in the 17th-century Hellbrunn Palace, where many scenes from the film were shot. Visitors are treated to nearly 450 objects including props and costumes from the film, cinema posters and recordings of the music. However, the museum carefully distinguishes the real-life story of the von Trapp family from that of the musical.

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Elisabeth von Trapp ne è rimasta particolarmente colpita: "It is intimate enough, so you really have a beautiful sense of the storyline of both the Sound of Music and the Trapp family singers - my relatives. I'm very proud of that." Ambientata sullo sfondo dell'annessione dell'Austria da parte della Germania nazista nel 1938, la storia ha come protagonista Maria, una giovane novizia incaricata di fare da governante ai sette figli della famiglia von Trapp. Attraverso il canto, insegna ai bambini ad amare la musica, finendo poi per innamorarsi del loro padre e datore di lavoro, il vedovo Georg von Trapp. La famiglia riesce a compiere una rocambolesca fuga durante un festival musicale alla presenza delle autorità naziste e, con l'aiuto delle suore del convento in cui Maria aveva vissuto, attraversa le montagne alla ricerca della salvezza. Il curatore del museo, Matthias Bergsmann, afferma che è importante che gli appassionati del film comprendano come la storia non sia soltanto frutto della fantasia degli sceneggiatori. (German translated to English): "Many fans coming to Salzburg don't know that Sound of Music is based on a true story. So, if they maybe get a eureka effect and realize hey, there was a real family in Salzburg, which now lives in the United States or all over the world – then we have reached our goal to a certain degree." Sebbene gli abitanti di Salisburgo non abbiano mai mostrato particolare entusiasmo per il film, gli appassionati di Tutti insieme appassionatamente, vincitore di cinque premi	Elisabeth von Trapp is impressed: "It is intimate enough, so you really have a beautiful sense of the storyline of both the Sound of Music and the Trapp family singers - my relatives. I'm very proud of that." Set against Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938, the story centres on a governess named Maria - a postulant nun - who teaches seven children in the von Trapp family to sing and love music, before falling in love with their father and her employer, widower Georg von Trapp. The family makes a daring escape during a music festival attended by the Nazi hierarchy, and aided by the nuns in Maria's former convent, climb over the mountains to safety in Switzerland. Museum curator Matthias Bergsmann says it's important for movie fans to realise the story is not just a scriptwriters' fantasy. (German translated to English): "Many fans coming to Salzburg don't know that Sound of Music is based on a true story. So, if they maybe get a eureka effect and realize hey, there was a real family in Salzburg, which now lives in the United States or all over the world – then we have reached our goal to a certain degree." While the real-life residents of Salzburg may have been unimpressed by the movie, fans of the film - which collected five Oscars including best picture - have long flocked to Salzburg.
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Oscar tra cui quello per il miglior film, continuano da decenni a visitare la città. Ogni anno diverse centinaia di migliaia di turisti arrivano a Salisburgo per rendere omaggio alla pellicola, generando fino a 80 milioni di euro per l'economia locale. Una delle principali attrazioni del museo è il celebre gazebo in cui la giovane Liesl dichiara il proprio amore a Rolf, il portalettere, e dove più tardi Georg confessa di essersi innamorato di Maria. La visitatrice statunitense Terry Brooks ha particolarmente apprezzato il modo in cui il museo mette in relazione la storia raccontata dal film con gli eventi realmente vissuti dalla famiglia von Trapp. "I love the combination of it being much about the movie, of course, but about the real von Trapp family, which I've read much about over the years. So it was fun to see that. And having met and known Elisabeth a little bit it just brought it full circle. Like I say, I thought the museum was very very well done." Ma per Elisabeth von Trapp, membro della vera famiglia che ha ispirato la storia, ciò che continua a colpire più di ogni altra cosa è la forza del legame familiare. "And they stayed very loyal to each other. They were true to each other. That's what the story is about. And they survived together. And that's – here we see – they had wings because of their singing." La celebre attrice Julie Andrews, che interpretò Maria von Trapp sul grande schermo, partecipò a un'intervista realizzata per l'introduzione a un'edizione in DVD del film.	Several hundred thousand visit the city each year to pay homage to the movie, generating as much as 80 million euros for the Salzburg economy. One of the key attractions of the museum is the gazebo where young Leisl expresses her love for Rolf the postman... and later, Georg admits he has fallen for Maria: US visitor Terry Brooks enjoyed seeing how the story relates to what happened in real life. "I love the combination of it being much about the movie, of course, but about the real von Trapp family, which I've read much about over the years. So it was fun to see that. And having met and known Elisabeth a little bit it just brought it full circle. Like I say, I thought the museum was very very well done." But for real-life Von Trapp family member Elisabeth, it is still the strength of the family bond that stands out. "And they stayed very loyal to each other. They were true to each other. That's what the story is about. And they survived together. And that's – here we see – they had wings because of their singing." Veteran movie star Julie Andrews, who played Maria von Trapp, was interviewed for an introduction to a DVD of the movie.
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Anche lei concorda sul fatto che il tema centrale di <i>Tutti insieme appassionatamente</i> sia la famiglia. "I'm often asked why this film has remained so astonishingly popular after all these years. I don't think there is any one answer. Perhaps its because the Sound of Music is - first and last - about a family. Perhaps it's about faith, or that the values that the film embraces are so decent. The Sound of Music lives on because it offers a promise that, if you have faith and persevere, you can follow every rainbow until you find your dream."	She agrees that family is the central theme of the movie. "I'm often asked why this film has remained so astonishingly popular after all these years. I don't think there is any one answer. Perhaps its because the Sound of Music is - first and last - about a family. Perhaps it's about faith, or that the values that the film embraces are so decent. The Sound of Music lives on because it offers a promise that, if you have faith and persevere, you can follow every rainbow until you find your dream."
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Report by Allan Lee for SBS News.

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